



## **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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#### **Why is it important to protect and restore San Francisco Bay?**

San Francisco Bay is one of our nation's greatest natural treasures and the defining feature of where we call home. But it won't remain so without the necessary funding to protect and restore it for generations to come.

Restoring San Francisco Bay isn't just essential from an environmental or quality of life perspective. It's equally important to expand bicycle and walking trails on public land, and to continue to strengthen our local economy with thousands of new good-paying jobs.

#### **What is the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority?**

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Restoration Authority) is a regional agency with a Governing Board made up of local elected officials and the Executive Officer of the California State Coastal Conservancy. Its purpose is to raise and allocate local resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.

Following years of budget cuts, innovative and robust strategies are needed to fund this critical work. The Restoration Authority was created by the California Legislature in 2008 to find solutions to the need for new, local funding.

The Legislature has given the Restoration Authority the unique capacity to raise funds from local sources throughout the Bay Area and the oversight capacity to ensure transparency and prevent waste. Its purpose is restoration, not regulation. The Restoration Authority does not duplicate the missions of other public agencies and private organizations working on Bay restoration; it is designed to deliver essential local funding to restoration project developed by others.

### **How will these local funds be raised?**

The Authority is considering placing a regional revenue measure on the ballot in November 2014. Any decision on whether to place a measure on the ballot, and how much revenue would be sought, must be approved by a majority of the Governing Board of the Authority. Polling conducted in 2011 shows that Bay Area residents are strongly supportive of paying a modest amount (on the order of \$10-20 per year) to fund this critical work.

### **Will these projects really create jobs?**

Absolutely. Small Bay restoration projects that have been completed around the Bay have already created dozens of full and part time jobs. Restoration of former salt ponds at the Green Island Unit in southern Napa created over 50 full- and part-time positions between 2007 and 2008. Wetland restoration projects will create good paying jobs from project planning through implementation – putting our communities back to work building levees, transporting material, creating new bicycle and walking paths, as well as assessing tidal flows and habitat needs, and monitoring sites into the future.

### **How can we be sure our tax dollars are used effectively?**

The Authority is committed to including strong safeguards to ensure funds are spent where they will do the most good.

Examples of safeguards that are regularly used include citizens' oversight boards and annual audits to ensure that taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are spent appropriately.

### **How can we afford this when education and public safety are being cut?**

With strict oversight and the ability to create hundreds of new jobs, restoring the Bay is not an either/or issue.

The Bay is an economic powerhouse, responsible for tens of thousands of regional jobs. Each year, over \$60 billion worth of goods pass through the narrow channel of the Golden Gate. For a few dollars each year, Bay Area residents can take a stand to protect our local economy, provide vital habitat for fish and wildlife, and further improve our quality of life.

### **There aren't any projects near where I live. Why should I support this?**

You don't have to live right next to the shoreline to see the benefits of restoring the Bay. In addition to creating hundreds of jobs, this measure will help keep toxic pollutants out of the Bay, reduce threats from erosion by slowing water in local creeks and expand public access to the shoreline.